

DOM-10-226

POUR DIFFUSION IMMÉDIATE

Honoré-Mercier Bridge: new westbound load restriction (to Châteauguay)

Châteauguay, December 22, 2010 – The Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) today notified road users that, effective December 29, 2010, heavy transport will be prohibited on the Honoré-Mercier Bridge westbound (to Châteauguay).

Over the next few days, the MTQ will proceed with reinforcement work on the westbound structure (to Châteauguay), in order to proceed as soon as possible with the installation of rigid New Jersey crash barriers to ensure the safety of the guardrails of the upstream structure. Due to the bearing capacity and out of a concern for safety, the MTQ must prohibit westbound heavy transport on the Honoré-Mercier Bridge. The MTQ wishes to reassure the users, specifying that traffic flow must never take precedence over the safety of motorists and that the structure remains safe.

The two lanes to Châteauguay remain open to traffic. Access to the bridge is still permitted for motor coaches, emergency vehicles and bridge show removal vehicles.

This measure will remain in force for an indeterminate period. The MTQ is currently studying solutions that would allow restoration of heavy transport.

The proposed detour for heavy carriers is the Champlain Bridge or the Monseigneur-Langlois Bridge, via Autoroute 20 westbound. It should also be noted that the speed limit on the Honoré-Mercier Bridge to Châteauguay is reduced from now on to 50 km/h.

Finally, replacement of the guardrails of the westbound structure is scheduled for the second phase of major repair of the structure (Contract B). This phase should begin next spring and end in 2013.

Eastbound traffic (to Montréal) remains normal.

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